

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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Comments

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1. In paragraph 7, read zarazhennyye veshchestva (contaminated particles) instead of zarazhoniye veshchestva. It may be noted, however, that the Soldiers' and Sergeants' Handbook on Atomic Defense does not use the term zarazhennyye veshchestva, but speaks of radioaktivnyye veshchestva (radioactive particles), radioaktivnoye zarazheniye (radioactive contamination), and zarazheniye radioaktivnymi veshchestvami (contamination by radioactive particles).
2. Figure 7 is on page 19 of the Soldiers' and Sergeants' Handbook on Atomic Defense not on page 3 as stated in paragraph 8 of the attached report.

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25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

ARMY review completed.

STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI	#X	AEC	X								
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution indicated by "#".)

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COUNTRY USSR/Austria (Soviet Zone)
 SUBJECT Soviet Atomic Defense Training

DATE OF INFORMATION

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DATE DISTR. 25 May 1955

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Atomic Defense Handbook 1

About June 1954, [redacted] the 93d Sep
 Security Bn at Schanhausen (N 50-34, E 10-10) received a
 few copies of the Soldiers' and Sergeants' Handbook on Atomic Defense
 (Ramyatka Soldatu i Serzhantu po Zashchite Atomnogo Oruzhiya) 2.

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[redacted] were told by the CO that everyone would eventually receive
 a personal copy and would have to study it "from cover to cover".
 The handbook was about 12 centimeters wide and 14.4 to 15.6 centimeters
 long, with a binding the color of which was similar to that of a manila
 envelope with grayish black spots.

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[redacted] an edition of a handbook which [redacted]
 was for officers. 5 This handbook was thicker than the Soldiers' and
Sergeants' Handbook and its binding was light blue.

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The CO told troops in his unit to remember well what he read to them out of
 the officers' handbook because he had the only copy of it.

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Some time in June 1954 [redacted] a
 film on the action of atomic bombs and on defense measures to be taken
 against such action.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Unit Training Program

4. All training [redacted] was conducted by the company CO, the three platoon CO's, and the nine sergeants in charge of the nine squads making up the company. The daily training schedule called for about eight hours of border guard duty, eight hours of rest, and three to four hours of training. The rest of the day was devoted to housekeeping details, meals, and miscellaneous duties. In order to comply with this schedule, three squads, one out of each of the three platoons, would be on border guard duty, three squads would rest, and the three remaining squads would train or perform details. The training schedule was very strenuous, because, as the officers said, "war would come soon or later, and they had to prepare for it." According to the officers, the USSR, "was surrounded by aggressive capitalistic countries". The unit training schedule called for two hours of political training twice a week, one or two hours of marksmanship training and firing twice a week, one or two hours of chemical warfare training once every two weeks, one hour of physical training two or three times a week, first aid training once a year, two or three hours of border guard training once a week, distance estimation twice a month, and two to four hours of tactical training three or four times a week.

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Emphasis on Training with Atomic Implications

5. The greatest emphasis in the training program, however, was placed on tactical training, which was held three or four times a week, each period lasting from two to four hours. Beginning about June 1954, all tactical training was conducted from an atomic point of view, or slanted towards atomic warfare. [redacted]
6. Atomic defense training [redacted] consisted of class lectures based on the Soldiers' and Sergeants' Handbook and on platoon level tactical training in the field. The lectures on atomic warfare were not scheduled regularly; sometimes they occurred as much as once or twice a week; but, in some cases, an entire week would go by without such a lecture. The lectures lasted about one hour each and they were all based on readings from the Soldiers' and Sergeants' Handbook followed by a question and answer period.
7. The tactical training was given on a platoon level with three squads participating. It appeared to be based on the rules laid down in the Soldiers' and Sergeants' Handbook. The greatest emphasis was placed on teaching EM [redacted] to attack under atomic warfare conditions, that is, how to attack after an atom bomb had been exploded. During this training, trainees were usually simply told verbally where the enemy's atom bomb had been exploded. However, during one training period, red and green flares were used. Red flares signified the explosion of atom bombs, while green flares signified that the soldiers were to start or resume the attack. While training, soldiers donned capes or sheets, Shlem 1 gas masks, and impregnated stockings. [redacted] unit was told by its officer instructor that the cape and the gas mask would afford protection from radioactive particles (zarazhoniye veshchestva - contaminated particles). They said that blast and shock protection could be gained only from shelters, trenches, stumps, and, to a certain extent, from assuming a prone position.
8. Soldiers [redacted] dug trenches and foxholes which were similar to the ones described on page 44 of the Soldiers' and Sergeants' Handbook. They also built an air raid and atomic defense shelter for the entire company. The shelter was built in the form of an open trench, two meters deep, with dugouts for ten people. The shelter was similar to the one described on page 3, figure 7 of the Soldiers' and Sergeants'

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Handbook. The shelter was built about June 1954, [redacted]
it was in poor condition and to a great extent ruined by rain.

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9. The training in atomic defense included instructions and practice on how to leave a contaminated area. Under the platoon leader's supervision, troops [redacted] had to leave a simulated contaminated area, take off all their clothing and pile it on the ground. They kept only their underwear and gas masks. Then they would pick up the discarded clothing and weapons one by one and beat them with either sticks or switches in the direction in which the wind was blowing. Subsequently they would wipe off with water, grass, or cotton waste the exposed parts of the body and the outside of their weapons. Finally, they would take off their gas masks and wipe them off in the same manner. Then they would get dressed again. The platoon leader explained that under actual battle conditions, an unknown type of salve would be used to wipe exposed body parts and weapons.

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10. Soldiers [redacted] once occupied a simulated defensive position on the outskirts of a forest. After they were told that reinforcements and supplies were being sent forward to them from the rear and that an enemy atomic blast was supposed to have occurred, the soldiers proceeded to simulate an attack.

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11. [redacted] platoon went to a test firing range located in the immediate vicinity of Dreissigacker (N 50-33, E 10-24) in order to undergo a short one-hour test in atomic tactical training. The test was conducted by an unidentified artillery major and an unidentified artillery senior lieutenant.

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During the test, the platoon consisting of about 30 men assembled about 100 meters from a 150 meter long plain trench, about one meter deep, that was on the firing range. The platoon then occupied the trench. In front of it there were several shelters completely covered with earth, each capable of holding about five soldiers; these shelters communicated directly with the trench. About three communication trenches located in back of the forward trench converged at one point where there might have been another shelter occupied by a platoon leader. Squad leaders reported to the platoon CO for orders by means of these communication trenches. Some of the soldiers had SMGs, about 10 soldiers had carbines, and three soldiers had LMGs. The major simply observed, while the senior lieutenant announced verbally a simulated atomic explosion. This announcement was transmitted by source's platoon leader to the platoon through squad leaders. The soldiers then went into the shelters in two's and three's and donned the usual protective clothing, i. e., capes or sheets, gas masks, and stockings. They then resumed their positions in the trenches. Three soldiers, each carrying two large targets, appeared out of the wooded area about 150 meters in front of them, simulating three enemy squads. [redacted] platoon fired blank shells at them and then walked out of the simulated contaminated area and took off all their protective clothing and outer uniforms. They then went through the above-described process of decontaminating their clothing and weapons. [redacted] the major gave their performance a high rating.

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Individual Chemical and Radiological Defense Equipment

12. The cape (nakidka), made out of a whitish impregnated material, covered the head and body and reached down to the ankles. 4 It more or less followed the contour of head and shoulders (see sketch on page 5). The cape was laced in front by means of about four pairs of laces. Not all the men [] had capes. Some, [] had another type of cape or protective sheet (podstila), similar to the cape in size. However, instead of following the contours of the head and shoulders, it was rectangular and it was of a darker shade of white than the cape. In addition to laces, the sheet had two longitudinal flaps or seam-slits on one side, one towards the top and another towards the bottom. Short 80-centimeter long sticks or poles were slipped into each of them. This made the sheet more rigid and permitted it to be spread on the ground more easily. Soldiers used it either as a cape or as a protective sheet to be spread over contaminated ground. In the latter case, they would slip the poles or sticks into the slots and take cover in the following way: they would first drop one end on the ground, put one foot on the pole at that end, and spread the sheet on the ground in front of them, holding [] the other end of the sheet at the place where the other stick or pole was located. They then would lie down on the sheet and dig a foxhole to the right of it. []

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13. [] capes and stockings used in his company were like those depicted on a locally available Soviet chart or poster entitled "Use of Protective Cape and Stockings". [] capes used [] had about four sets of laces, and loop fasteners, as shown on the poster. []

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4. Comment: Protective clothing [] used during tactical training [] the socks, instead of being laced, were simply slipped over the boots and were tied by means of straps around the ankles and below the knees. []

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Sketch of Impregnated Cape and Protective Sheet

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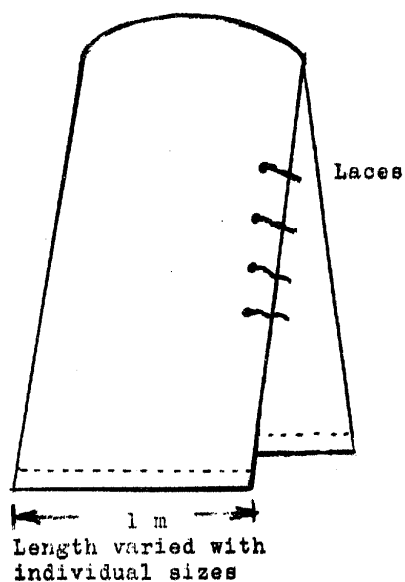


Fig. 1

Nakidka or Cape

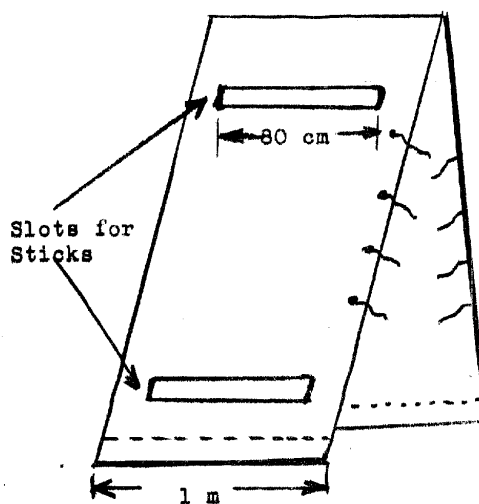


Fig. 2

Podstil or Sheet

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